

(e) and (f). Five Emergency Service Cells are being operated by Oil Industry in Delhi, which are considered sufficient for the present in Delhi.

[Translation]

Kerosene Oil Agencies

1851. DR. BALIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Uttar Pradesh for which advertisement for allotment of LPG: Petrol/Diesel and Kerosene Oil agencies were published during the last three years;

(b) the names of the places for which allotment were made/not made alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the places included in marketing scheme and the dates of their interview?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). During the last three years, oil companies issued advertisements for 417 retail outlets, 228 LPG distributorships and 58 SKO/LDO dealerships in Uttar Pradesh. Out of the above, interviews were held for 275 ROs, 98 LPG distributorships and 25 SKO/LDO dealerships and Letters of Intent were issued for 266 retail outlets, 98 LPG distributorships and 24 SKO/LDO dealerships. Letter of Intent in 9 retail outlets and 1 SKO/LDO dealership have not yet been issued. In remaining 142 retail outlet dealerships, 130 LPG distributorships and 30 SKO/LDO dealerships, interviews have not been conducted.

English as Compulsory Subject

1852. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether English is a compulsory subject in the Civil Services Examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the views of Chief Ministers were invited in respect of continuance or withdrawal of English as a subject in accordance with the recommendations of the Dr. Satish Chandra Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). There is a Compulsory paper on English in the written test of the

Civil Services (Main) Examination. The paper is of matriculation standard and the marks obtained in it do not count for final ranking. Such a paper was recommended by the Kothari Committee and is a part of the revised scheme of the examination introduced in 1979.

(c) to (d). Yes Sir The views of most of the Chief Ministers on the recommendations of the Dr. Satish Chandra Committee have been received. The Government is of the view that it would be possible to take a decision on the general language policy for the examinations of UPSC only after a wider consensus is achieved.

[English]

Fire at Tankage Plant

1853. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major fire broke out at the additional tankage plant of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited at Visakhapatnam on the November 9, 1996;

(b) if so, the causes thereof;

(c) the damage caused due to the said fire;

(d) the persons killed/injured in the fire, and

(e) the measures taken to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e). A fire broke out on 8th November, 1996 at additional tankage projects site of HPCL outside the main refinery complex at Visakhapatnam. The fire was caused due to ignition of Naphtha which migrated to the additional tankage project site through the Naphtha shipping line.

The pipeline manifolds and Naphta tank were damaged due to the fire. The incident has resulted in the death of two persons. Three persons suffered injuries.

A Committee has been constituted by HPCL to recommend measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Hydro Power Generation

1854. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :
SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of installed hydro-generation capacity in the total generation capacity in the country has come down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of remedial steps taken during the last two years; and

(d) the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). The share of hydroelectric potential in the total installed capacity of the country was 50.62% in 1963 and has thereafter declined to 25.19%. As on 31.3.1996 the installed capacity of hydro projects is 20976.09 MW out of the total installed capacity of 83287.96 MW. Some of the issues which have retarded the pace of progress of the hydro projects are resource crunch and cash flow problem, rehabilitation problems, land acquisition problem, law and order aspects, inter-state aspects and environmental considerations.

(c) and (d). Amongst the measures taken by the Government towards harnessing the hydro potential are creation of central/joint sector corporations, increase in outlay for development of hydro projects, increase in budgetary allocation for central/joint sector projects and arranging funds for hydel projects through external assistance. Besides the Government has modified the financial, administrative and legal procedures to attract private investment, and as a result, 22 proposals have been received for setting up of hydel power projects aggregating to 11070 MW.

Palm Oil Mill

1855. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed a technology for Palm Oil Mill,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to make the scheme profitable and commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). The indigenous technology for oil palm processing has been developed by Regional Research Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram. The technology package consists of following unit operations :

- Stabilisation of fresh fruit bunches
- Stripping of fresh fruit bunches
- Removal of empty bunches
- Digestion of oil palm fruits
- Extraction of oil palm fruits
- Clarification of oil

- Purification and drying of oil
- Oil Storage
- Recovery of oil palm nuts
- Effluent treatment

A proto-type unit of 2.5 tonnes fresh fruit bunches per hour capacity was established and commissioned in 1992 at Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh in the premises of M/s. A.P. Oilseed Growers Federation, Hyderabad. This palm oil mill is operating successfully and oil recovery of more than 90% of the oil present in the fresh fruit bunches have been achieved. Edible grade crude red palm oil with less than 4% free fatty acid (FFA) is produced by the mill (permissible limit for edible grade oils).

(c) The palm oil mill is economically viable with a pay back period of 4.5 years break even point of 39.65% and average net profit on sales 14.41%. The technology package has been released to the following project engineering companies :

- M/s. Ark Industrial Product Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
- M/s. Japro Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Bombay
- M/s. Wilson Engineering Enterprises, Coimbatore

The project engineering companies are making offers to set up palm oils mills on turn key basis, based upon CSIR technology, to various clients in the country.

Naptha Based Power Plants

1856. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of power projects cleared by Central Electricity Authority based on Naptha and liquid fuel;

(b) the total requirement of liquid fuel for these power projects;

(c) whether there is any indigenous alternative of this imported fuel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) A total of 9 Power projects cleared by CEA are based on naphtha and other liquid fuels.

(b) About 6 million metric tonnes per annum of naphtha would be required for the above 9 projects.

(c) and (d). The indigenous supply of liquid fuel is insufficient to meet the national demand from the various consumer sectors such as agriculture, transport, power, aviation etc.